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#89-10

United States Department Of Agriculture | Forest Service | Shasta-Trinity National Forests

Reply To: 3420 Date: May 30, 1989

Subject: Evaluation of Pest Conditions in the Proposed Three Prong Progeny Test Site, Corning RD (Report No. N89-10)

To: Forest Supervisor, Mendocino National Forest

On May 15, 1989, Dave Schultz, Entomologist, and I met with Dave Isle, Chuck Frank, Roy Henson, and others to examine the proposed site for the Three Prong progeny test site. This 15 to 20 acre site is on property owned by Crane Mills (T. 24 N., R. 8 W., section 21) adjacent to National Forest land.

The existing stand contains white fir, ponderosa pine, incense-cedar, sugar pine, black oak, and Douglas-fir with a 2 layer canopy. Whitethorn is a common shrub component in the openings in the stand. Selective harvesting has occurred on the site in the past.

The plan for the site is to harvest merchantable stems, remove all non-merchantable material, remove stumps and most larger root material, disc, and fence the site. Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine will be planted on the site.

Western dwarf mistletoe (Arceuthobium campylopodum) is common on ponderosa pine, both in the test area and around the periphery. Removal of all trees in the test area and infected trees in a buffer around the periphery, as planned, will remove this disease hazard to the planting. Blister rust (caused by Cronartium ribicola) was observed on sugar pine, but will not cause a hazard since neither of the species being planted is a host.

Evidence of annosus root disease (caused by Heterobasidion annosum) was found on the site. A large opening in the northwest corner may be the result of this disease. No recent mortality is present, but conks of the fungus were found in several ponderosa pine stumps. Two dead and dying trees, a white fir and a sugar pine, were found in two additional areas of the site. Examination of their roots revealed advanced decay and resinosis similar to that caused by annosus root disease. Nearby pine stumps had old conks of the fungus inside. The removal of stumps and most large root material from the site will significantly reduce the potential for infection of the progeny by H. annosum. Conifer stumps created in the buffer area around the site should be treated with borax to reduce the chance of infection and subsequent spread of the disease into the site from the periphery.

With the removal of both the dwarf mistletoe-infected trees and stump and root tissue, the effects of existing pests that could interfere with progeny test objectives will be reduced.

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If there are any questions about this report or if additional assistance is needed, please contact Dave Schultz or I at the Shasta-Trinity S.O. (916-246-5101).

GREGG A. DE NITTO
Forest Pathologist
Northern CA FPM Service Area